GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:381
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2016
Hindi as Official Language in UN
Devi Smt. Rama;Yadav Shri Laxmi Narayan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any initiative for the introduction of Hindi as one of the official languages in the United Nations and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the reaction of the UN thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 381 REGARDING "HINDI AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN UN" FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2016

Government continues to take measures for the acceptance of Hindi as one of the Official Languages of the UN. In light of this objective the 8th World Hindi Conference was organized in New York on 13 July 2007 and its inaugural session was held at the UN Headquarters which was attended by the UN Secretary General. At the last World Hindi Conference organised in Bhopal from 10-12 Sep 2015 one of the sessions of the Conference was devoted to the theme Videsh Niti Mein Hindi ("Hindi in Foreign Policy") in which one of the recommendations reiterated was that Hindi should be made a UN language. A Committee has been established under the Chairmanship of External Affairs Minister for implementation of this and other recommendations made at the Conference.

A World Hindi Secretariat has also been set up in Mauritius in February 2008, to promote Hindi as an international language.

On several occasions Indian leaders have delivered statements at the UN in Hindi including Prime Minister's statement to the 69th UNGA in September 2014, the address of Prime Minister to the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, the address to the 70th UNGA by External Affairs Minister in October 2015, and the address of External Affairs Minister to the 71st UNGA in September 2016. Necessary special arrangements were made for simultaneous interpretation of these statements into English by the Permanent Mission of India in New York.

The Government continues its efforts in popularizing Hindi worldwide and for the acceptance of Hindi as one of the UN official languages. In this regard, one significant achievement has been the United Nations broadcasting its programmes on the UN Radio Website in Hindi language also.